



The Honorable Susan Golding, Chair
MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: NCCRSR Proposals for Pescadero Marsh

Dear Ms. Golding,

I am writing for California Trout (CalTrout) to provide our comments on the proposals for Pescadero Marsh. CalTrout represents over 8,000 California citizens who fish in the state as well as 100 affiliated fishing organizations and clubs.

Pescadero Marsh has long been a favorite fishing site for Steelhead anglers. This area has been known for over a hundred years and clearly fits with the name of the local town. CalTrout supports the position of the Pescadero Native Sons Steelhead Committee, the Golden West Women Flyfishers, and the Northern California/Nevada Federation of Fly Fishers.

We echo the well-stated comment of the Federation:

Of the six plans developed by the Regional Stakeholder Group, four of them (EA, EB, TA, TB) designate Pescadero Marsh as a State Marine Reserve (SMR) with "No Take" as the designated use. It is unclear whether this "No Take" designation refers to the current regulation of fishing permitted with barbless hooks and zero limit on take, or rather, prohibits all fishing in the SMR. If the latter is case, it is a mistake and we are concerned about the loss of this important recreational opportunity.

In addition to the well-reasoned comments of the Federation we note:

- there is no *legal* steelhead fishing in the ocean (2007-08 Ocean Sportfishing regs. 27.70b "the take of steelhead rainbow trout in the ocean is prohibited") thus *the entire ocean is a sanctuary for steelhead*.
- most streams are closed to fishing in spawning areas and small streams on the south central and central coast have very little opportunity for steelhead fishing which is often restricted to areas downstream of Highway 1 (estuaries and not much more)
- the streams that are open have seasonal closures, daily closures and flow closures
 - seasonal = Dec. 1- Mar. 7 for most central and south central coast streams
 - daily (Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days)
 - flow restriction closures (see section 8.00 in the fishing regs)
- when you take into account all the closures you may only be able to fish 20-40 days per year. That means *they are closed 300+ days a year already*.

- all fishing for wild steelhead in CA is a zero limit (except the Smith)

In summary, CalTrout has long supported protection of the Pescadero habitat and the Pescadero Creek steelhead population. We hope that the MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force recognizes that Pescadero Creek steelhead fishing is already a heavily regulated endeavor with over a hundred years history that could be effectively eliminated by further regulation. Thus we request that no additional regulatory changes be made in this estuary that would augment the currently already restrictive regulations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerome Yesavage MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "MD" written in a smaller, more distinct script at the end.

Jerome Yesavage
Chairman, Board of Governors
California Trout
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San Francisco, Ca. 94102